Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct Northern Access Road

Application Number: **02635** Commencement Date: **15/10/2024** Status: **Locked**

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct Northern Access Road

1.1.2 Project industry type *

Transport - Land

1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

Road

1.1.4 Estimated start date *

01/05/2025

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

19/12/2025

1.2 Proposed Action details

1.2.1 Provide an overview of the proposed action, including all proposed activities. *

The LEIP Northern Access Road (the Project, and the subject of this assessment) involves the construction of an access road within established road reserve, including:

- No Name Road: this section of the Project is low value grazing land with minimal existing vegetation (i.e. woody weeds) or habitat value. It extends from the northern boundary of Lot 19 on Plan

SP321818 to the northern extent of Ghost Gum Road reserve and is approximately 1.005 kilometres (km) in length
- Ghost Gum Road: this section of the Project is an existing unsealed road which runs in a west to east alignment. It extends from the western boundary of Lot 19 on Plan SP 321818 to approximately 20 metres (m) west of the Drive-It Northern driveway and is approximately 909 metres (m) in length.

The purpose of the Project is to support safe access to the LEIP utilising Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) and Queensland Rail (QR) approved and upgraded transport infrastructure routes for heavy vehicles exiting and entering the Flinders Highway and crossing the Mt Isa Line (operational rail corridor). The Total disturbance footprint is approximately 4.47 ha (Refer to Section 7.3 (Page 49) of Attachment A)

The disturbance footprint will be primarily located within existing road reserve with the exception to areas of the north south connection along No Name Road. The disturbance footprint will encompass all activities associated with the Project, including:

- site establishment
- minor earthworks
- stormwater works
- roadworks; inclusive of subgrade preparation, pavement, street lighting (at junctions) and line marking.

This study assesses matters of national environmental significance (MNES) and as such has considered the surrounding areas for Commonwealth values to a maximum buffer of 20 km from the Project (referred to as the 'study area').

Further detail (Att A, Section 1.1.1, Page 1) [Att A – MNES Report].

1.2.2 Is the project action part of a staged development or related to other actions or proposals in the region?

Yes

1.2.3 Is the proposed action the first stage of a staged development (or a larger project)?

No

1.2.4 Related referral(s)

EPBC Number	Project Title
2023/09604	EGH2 Green Hydrogen Project
2022/09383	Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct – Enabling Infrastructure
2022/09281	Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct Access Road
2021/9033	Queensland Pacific Metals - Townsville Energy Chemicals Hub TECH Project

1.2.5 Provide information about the staged development (or relevant larger project).

The Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct (LEIP) – Temporary Access Road (2022-9281) was referred to the Department on 23 August 2022 and was determined to be 'not a controlled action' on 14 October 2022. The road in the Access Road referral was to facilitate access for a different proponent - Queensland Pacific Metals (QPM).

Council submitted a separate referral (EPBC 2022-9383) for LEIP Enabling Infrastructure, which was approved subject to conditions. This referral was for the construction of a water pipeline, laydown areas and road infrastructure. The date of this decision was 14 December 2023.

QPM has submitted a separate referral (EPBC 2021-9033) to construct a nickel refinery, which requires safe and efficient access to and from Jones Road and the Flinders Highway. The date of this decision was 2 November 2022. QPM's referral was specific to their land allocation within the precinct and separate to any referrals made by Council or other proponents.

Edify Energy (Edify) has submitted a separate referral (EPBC 2023-0604) to construct a Green Hydrogen project in the precinct. Edify's referral is specific to their land allocation within the precinct and separate to any referrals made by Council or other proponents. This referral is in the Assessment stage.

This action being referred is thence standalone and not co-dependent on other actions by Council or proponents.

There are likely to be separate actions undertaken in future by other proponents in response to the establishment of the Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct, however at the time of writing, these actions and the consequences of their impacts are not reasonably foreseeable.

As the precinct evolves, Council is refining the plan for enabling infrastructure to provide effective connectivity to proponents. Separate actions may be required, however at the time of writing, these actions and the consequences of their impacts are not reasonably foreseeable.

Further detail (Att A, Section 1.1.3, Page 3) [Att A – MNES Report].

1.2.6 What Commonwealth or state legislation, planning frameworks or policy documents are relevant to the proposed action, and how are they relevant? *

Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) is the Australian Government's central piece of environmental legislation that provides a legal framework to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places - defined in the EPBC Act as matters of national environmental significance (MNES).

If a proposed development or other action ('proposed action') is likely to have a significant impact upon a protected matter, then it must be referred for assessment under the EPBC Act.

Desktop and field assessments completed to date have included an assessment of the presence of threatened ecological communities (TECs) and targeted surveys for listed flora and fauna species under the EPBC Act.

Matters of National Environmental Significance – Significant Impact Guideline 1.1

Under the EPBC Act an action will require approval from the minister if the action has, will have, or is likely to have, a significant impact on a MNES. The *Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1: Matters of National Environmental Significance* (DCCEEW 2013) outline a 'self-assessment' process, including detailed criteria, to assist persons in deciding whether referral may be required and if the proposed action may have a 'significant' impact on MNES.

The EPBC Act includes a requirement that where a significant impact to a MNES is assessed as likely to occur, an environmental offset is required to compensate for that impact.

EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy

Environmental offsets are required to be delivered in accordance with the EPBC Act *Environmental Offsets Policy* (DCCEEW 2012). The Environmental Offsets Policy outlines the Australian Government's approach to the use of environmental offsets ('offsets') under the EPBC Act. Offsets are defined as measures that compensate for the residual adverse impacts of an action on the environment. Where appropriate, offsets are considered during the assessment phase of an environmental impact assessment under the EPBC Act (DCCEEW 2012).

Avoidance and mitigation measures are the primary strategies for managing the potential significant impact of a proposed action. Offsets do not reduce the likely impacts of a proposed action, but instead compensate for any residual significant impact. Where significant impacts are found to occur to MNES, and environmental offsets are required, an offsets package should be provided. An offsets package is a suite of actions that a proponent undertakes in order to compensate for the residual significant impacts to the identified MNES. It can comprise a combination of direct offsets and other compensatory measures.

Offsets should align with conservation priorities for the impacted protected matter and be tailored specifically to the attribute of the protected matter that is impacted in order to deliver a conservation gain (DCCEWW 2012). To support any offset assessments that may be required it will be important to evaluate the specific MNES attributes that occur within the proposed disturbance area (e.g. whether it is foraging habitat or breeding habitat) and the habitat quality of mapped habitat areas. This information is required to inform offset calculations.

EPBC Act guidelines for the Koala

Assessment of impacts to Koalas (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) were previously addressed within the EPBC Act referral guidelines for the vulnerable Koala (DoEE 2014), now superseded but current at the time of original baseline Koala surveys. The guidelines provided a 'koala habitat assessment tool' to assist in determining the sensitivity, value and quality of lands potentially impacted under development proposals. The assessment tool was used to identify a 'habitat score' and determine whether habitat on the target site may be considered 'critical to the survival of the Koala' and therefore critical to the long-term survival and recovery of the species. The score was based on Koala occurrences, vegetation structure and composition, habitat connectivity, key existing threats and the recovery value of the area. Initial survey work was undertaken with these guidelines in mind.

Post completion of the original baseline surveys, on 12 February 2022, the Koala (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory) was listed as endangered under the EPBC Act.

It is the department's expectation that a proponent refer any proposed project that is likely to impact the Koala and/or its habitat. This includes disturbance and/or creation of barriers on areas of land that either contains locally important Koala trees, or is land that is provides the means for Koalas to move between patches of habitat. As an endangered species, even small areas of habitat loss (as little as one hectare) can have a significant impact.

Guidance on Koala habitat has been applied to this MNES assessment and survey methods have had regard to relevant literature including 'A review of koala habitat assessment criteria and methods' by Australian National University (ANU) (ANU 2021).

Climate refugia such as drainage lines, riparian zones and patches can also be important attributes as they contribute to a location's resilience to drying conditions and are likely to provide a cooler refuge during periods of bushfire and heatwaves.

National Recovery Plan for the Koala Phascolarctos cinereus

This National Recovery Plan for the Koala (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory) was made under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). This recovery plan is a nationally led, landscape-scale conservation framework for recovery therefore requiring cross-jurisdictional and multi-tenure considerations. It will provide for a national approach to listed Koala conservation, coordinate fragmented actions across many national policies, disciplines and multiple jurisdictions, and prioritise investment to maximise the potential for recovery.

The goal of the recovery plan is to stop the trend of decline in population size of the listed Koala, by having resilient, connected, and genetically healthy metapopulations across its range, and to increase the extent, quality and connectivity of habitat occupied (DCCEEW 2022c).

Relevant information has been considered from the recovery plan in assessing Koala habitat in the Study area, potential for impacts to occur, and appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures.

Queensland Vegetation Management Act 1999 (VM Act)

The purpose of the VM Act is to regulate the clearing of native vegetation in a way that conserves remnant vegetation in declared areas, ensures clearing does not cause land degradation, prevents the loss of biodiversity and maintains ecological processes.

Under the VM Act regional ecosystems (REs) are assigned one of three statuses which are:

- Endangered RE
- Of Concern RE
- Least Concern RE.

These statuses are taken from the RE description database, and respective definitions are provided in the Act. Within this report, the definition of a RE follows that described by Sattler and Williams (1999), e.g. a vegetation community in a bioregion that is consistently associated with a particular combination of geology, landform and soil. Both VM Act status and biodiversity status of REs has been included.

Queensland Nature Conservation Act 1992 (NC Act)

For a proposed activity that will have an unavoidable impact on breeding places of protected animals (which include all classes of native wildlife including least concern) a Species Management Program (SMP) is required to be prepared and approved by the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation (DESI) under the NC Act. DESI has prepared an Information Sheet that outlines when a SMP is required. Animal breeding places are defined in this document as: a bower; burrow; cave; hollow; nest; or other thing that is commonly used by the animal to incubate or rear the animal's offspring.

A Low Risk SMP can authorise tampering with animal breeding places for least concern species. A High Risk SMP will authorise tampering for all fauna breeding places including colonial breeders, special least concern and Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable and Near Threatened (CEEVNT) species (Refer to Attachment A). The duration of the SMP (Refer to Attachment B, C and D) must be identified and must be relevant to the activity being undertaken and allow for a periodic review of the program. The standard term for an SMP is three years.

Queensland Biosecurity Act 2014

The *Biosecurity Act 2014* provides a legislative framework to manage feral fauna and pest flora, diseases and environmental contaminants, to address the impacts they have on the economy, environment, agriculture, tourism and society.

The Act prohibits or restricts the introduction and spread of declared plant and animal pests within Queensland. Weeds and pests pose one of the most significant threats to native flora and fauna and agriculture within the road reserve.

Field ecology surveys have identified the presence of pest plants and animals, which are discussed in Section 6.1.3 and Section 6.3.

Survey Guidelines

The timing and survey methods adopted for the seasonal flora and fauna surveys were guided by applicable State and Commonwealth survey guidelines. Vegetation community survey methods were consistent with the Methodology for Survey and Mapping of Regional Ecosystems and Vegetation Communities in Queensland.

Further detail (Att A, Chapter 2, Page 9) [Att A – MNES Report].

1.2.7 Describe any public consultation that has been, is being or will be undertaken regarding the project area, including with Indigenous stakeholders. Attach any completed consultation documentations, if relevant. *

A pre-referral meeting was held with DCCEEW on 18 April 2024.

1.3.1 Identity: Referring party

Privacy Notice:

Personal information means information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable.

By completing and submitting this form, you consent to the collection of all personal information contained in this form. If you are providing the personal information of other individuals in this form, please ensure you have their consent before doing so.

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (the department) collects your personal information (as defined by the Privacy Act 1988) through this platform for the purposes of enabling the department to consider your submission and contact you in relation to your submission. If you fail to provide some or all of the personal information requested on this platform (name and email address), the department will be unable to contact you to seek further information (if required) and subsequently may impact the consideration given to your submission.

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Australian Privacy Principles.

See our Privacy Policy to learn more about accessing or correcting personal information or making a complaint. Alternatively, email us at privacy@awe.gov.au.

☑ **Confirm that you have read and understand this Privacy Notice ***

1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? *

Yes

Referring party organisation details	
ABN/ACN	28141736558
Organisation name	EMM CONSULTING PTY LIMITED
Organisation address	2065 NSW
Referring party details	
Name	Mark Ryan
Job title	Senior Environmental Consultant
Phone	07 3648 1200
Email	maryan@emmconsulting.com.au
Address	Level 1 87 Wickham Terrace Spring Hill QLD 4000

1.3.2 Identity: Person proposing to take the action

1.3.2.1 Are the Person proposing to take the action details the same as the Referring party details? *

No

1.3.2.2 Is Person proposing to take the action an organisation or business? *

Yes

Person proposing to take the action organisation details

ABN/ACN	44741992072
Organisation name	TOWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL
Organisation address	4810 QLD

Person proposing to take the action details

Name	Scott Muller
Job title	Program Manager - Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct
Phone	0456872581
Email	scott.muller@townsville.qld.gov.au
Address	103 Walker Street, Townsville City QLD 4810

1.3.2.14 Are you proposing the action as part of a Joint Venture? *

No

1.3.2.15 Are you proposing the action as part of a Trust? *

No

1.3.2.17 Describe the Person proposing the action's history of responsible environmental management including details of any proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources against the Person proposing to take the action. *

Council recognises environmental sustainability as a guiding principle in its Corporate Plan (Refer to Attachment F) and is committed to either avoiding or minimising and mitigating adverse environmental impacts associated with its operations. Council will continually improve its environmental performance, seeking opportunities to achieve positive environmental outcomes, reduce impact and encourage a culture of sustainability among its workers and the community.

Further detail (Att F, Goal 4) [Att F – Corporate Plan_2024].

1.3.2.18 If the person proposing to take the action is a corporation, provide details of the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework

Council is committed to:

- Demonstrated environmental leadership and encouraging its workers and the community to adopt more sustainable lifestyles;
- Effective management and protection of the natural and built environment through the implementation of sustainable growth and development patterns; and
- Carrying out its operations in an environmentally sustainable manner and integrating sustainability into its processes and decision making.

Council has a satisfactory record of responsible environmental management.

Further detail (Att F, Goal 4) [Att F – Corporate Plan_2024].

Further detail (Att G) [Att G – TCC Env Policy].

1.3.3 Identity: Proposed designated proponent

1.3.3.1 Are the Proposed designated proponent details the same as the Person proposing to take the action? *

Yes

Proposed designated proponent organisation details

ABN/ACN	44741992072
Organisation name	TOWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL
Organisation address	4810 QLD

Proposed designated proponent details

Name	Scott Muller

Job title	Program Manager - Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct
Phone	0456872581
Email	scott.muller@townsville.qld.gov.au
Address	103 Walker Street, Townsville City QLD 4810

1.3.4 Identity: Summary of allocation

Confirmed Referring party's identity

The Referring party is the person preparing the information in this referral.

ABN/ACN	28141736558
Organisation name	EMM CONSULTING PTY LIMITED
Organisation address	2065 NSW
Representative's name	Mark Ryan
Representative's job title	Senior Environmental Consultant
Phone	07 3648 1200
Email	maryan@emmconsulting.com.au
Address	Level 1 87 Wickham Terrace Spring Hill QLD 4000

Confirmed Person proposing to take the action's identity

The Person proposing to take the action is the individual, business, government agency or trustee that will be responsible for the proposed action.

ABN/ACN	44741992072
Organisation name	TOWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL
Organisation address	4810 QLD
Representative's name	Scott Muller
Representative's job title	Program Manager - Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct
Phone	0456872581

Email	scott.muller@townsville.qld.gov.au
Address	103 Walker Street, Townsville City QLD 4810

Confirmed Proposed designated proponent's identity

The Person proposing to take the action is the individual or organisation proposed to be responsible for meeting the requirements of the EPBC Act during the assessment process, if the Minister decides that this project is a controlled action.

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

1.4 Payment details: Payment exemption and fee waiver

1.4.1 Do you qualify for an exemption from fees under EPBC Regulation 5.23 (1) (a)? *

No

1.4.3 Have you applied for or been granted a waiver for full or partial fees under Regulation 5.21A? *

No

1.4.5 Are you going to apply for a waiver of full or partial fees under EPBC Regulation 5.21A?

—

1.4.7 Has the department issued you with a credit note? *

No

1.4.9 Would you like to add a purchase order number to your invoice? *

No

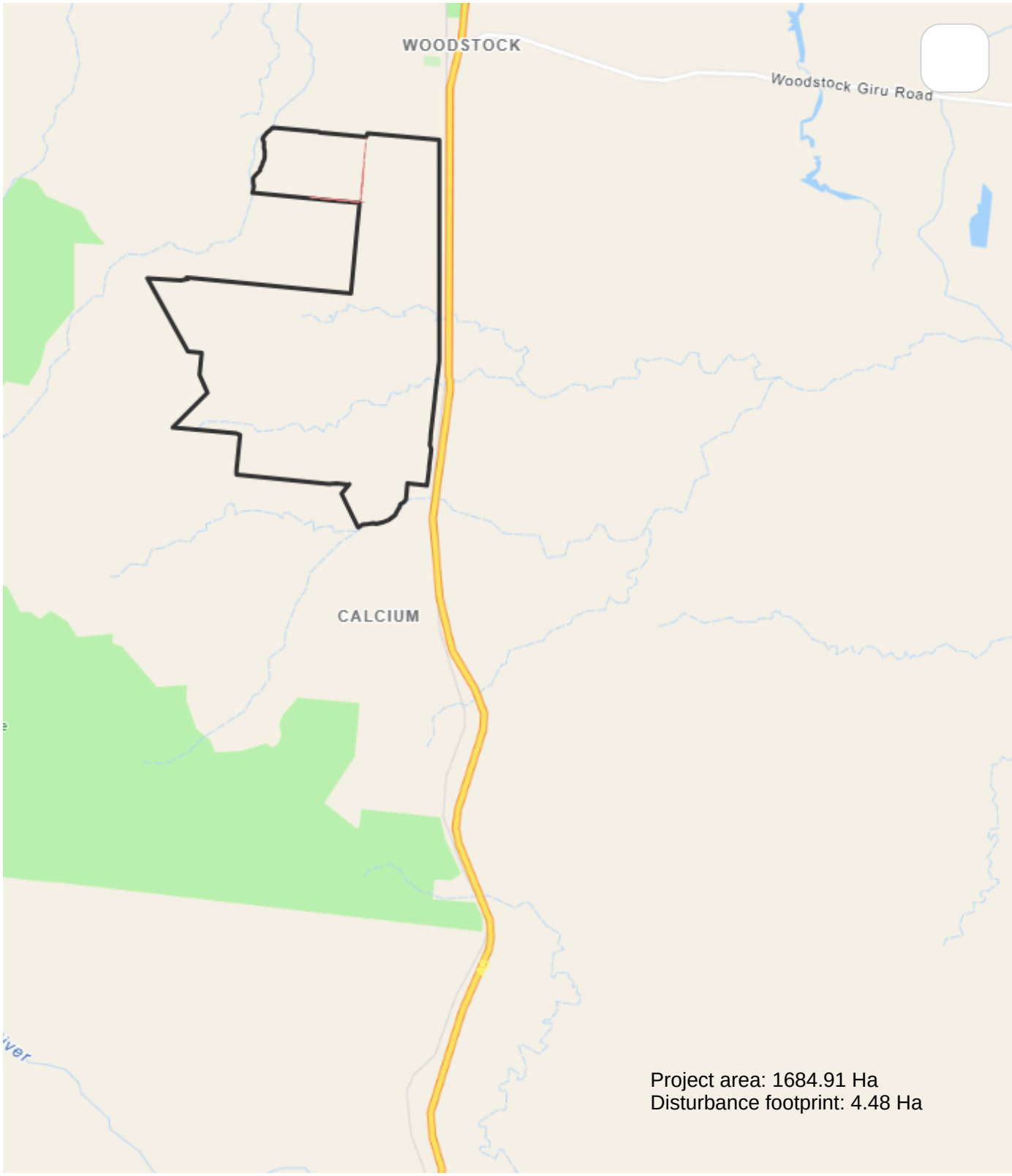
1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

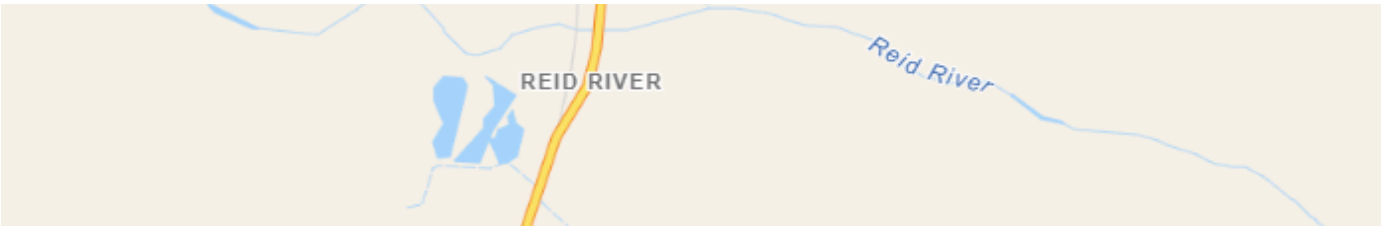
1.4.11 Who would you like to allocate as the entity responsible for payment? *

Person proposing to take the action

2. Location

2.1 Project footprint





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2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

128 Manton Quarry Road, Calcium, 4816.

2.2.2 Where is the primary jurisdiction of the proposed action? *

Queensland

2.2.3 Is there a secondary jurisdiction for this proposed action? *

No

2.2.5 What is the tenure of the action area relevant to the project area? *

The Project is located on freehold approximately 40 km south of Townsville at the LEIP and forms a road reserve in which the works are proposed.

Further detail (Att A, Section 1.1.1, Page 1) [Att A – MNES Report].

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

3.1.1 Describe the current condition of the project area's environment.

The Project is located approximately 40 km south of Townsville at the LEIP and forms a road reserve in which the works are proposed. The construction corridor runs in a north / south orientation, before running west along the existing Ghost Gum Road reserve.

The Project alignment in relation to surrounding lots is as follows:

- No Name Road (north to south) separates two (2) lots (Lot 19 on SP321818 to the east and Lot 20 on E124189 to the west) within the LEIP.
- Ghost Gum Road (east to west) separates two (2) lots (Lot 20 on E124189) to the north and Lot 30 on SP321818 to the south) within the LEIP.

These three (3) lots are subject to separate zonings beneath the Townsville City Plan: High Impact Industry zone (Lot 19 on SP321818) and Sport and Recreation (Lot 20 on E124189 and Lot 30 on SP321818). The land use in the immediate surrounds of the Project is mapped as Cropping with the exception of Grazing native vegetation to the north.

This stretch of road reserve is predominantly cleared and regularly slashed as part of the road maintenance or has been impacted by grazing activities. The construction corridor is non-remnant and only supports a few sparse trees.

The Project is in the Brigalow Belt North Bioregion and Townsville Plains sub-region.

Further detail (Att A, Section 1.1.1, Page 1) [Att A – MNES Report].

3.1.2 Describe any existing or proposed uses for the project area.

The Project will be located approximately 40 km south of Townsville at the LEIP in Woodstock – Northern Australia's first environmentally sustainable advanced manufacturing, processing and technology hub – funded under the Townsville City Deal. The land is well supported by existing infrastructure which will be instrumental to the development and operation of the Project. This includes a gas pipeline, power transmission, road and water supply. In 2020, the Precinct was re-zoned as High Impact Industry as approved by the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning.

The LEIP is being developed on land that was previously a Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) agricultural research station that was used for cropping and grazing studies. The land has been fully cleared and is heavily infested with non-native plant species. Only small patches of remnant and regrowth vegetation of reasonably low quality remain. The LEIP is located approximately 3 km south of the locality of Woodstock and adjacent to the western side of the Flinders Highway, North Queensland Gas Pipeline and Great Northern Rail line.

The Project is located approximately 40 km south of Townsville at the LEIP and forms a road reserve in which the works are proposed. The construction corridor runs in a north / south orientation, before running west along the existing Ghost Gum Road reserve.

The Project alignment in relation to surrounding lots is as follows:

- No Name Road (north to south) separates two (2) lots (Lot on Plan 19 SP321818 (356.83 ha) to the east and Lot 20 on Plan E124189 (162.81 ha) to the west) within the LEIP.
- Ghost Gum Road (east to west) separates two (2) lots (Lot 20 on Plan E124189 (162.81 ha) to the north and Lot 30 on Plan 321818 (398.67 ha) to the south) within the LEIP.

These three (3) lots are subject to separate zonings beneath the Townsville City Plan: High Impact Industry zone (Lot 19 on SP321818) and Sport and Recreation (Lot 20 on Plan E124189 and Lot 30 on Plan SP321818). The land use in the immediate surrounds of the Project is mapped as Cropping, with the exception Grazing native vegetation to the north. E240271 | RP#10 | v3 3

- This stretch of road reserve is predominantly cleared and regularly slashed as part of the road maintenance. The construction corridor is non-remnant and only supports a few sparse trees. The Project is located in the Brigalow Belt North Bioregion and Townsville Plains sub-region.

Further detail (Att H, Section 1.3, Page 2) [Att H – Road Reserve Memo_July 2025].

3.1.3 Describe any outstanding natural features and/or any other important or unique values that applies to the project area.

This stretch of road reserve is predominantly cleared and regularly slashed as part of the road maintenance or has been impacted by grazing activities. The construction corridor is non-remnant and only supports a few sparse trees.

The Project is in the Brigalow Belt North Bioregion and Townsville Plains sub-region.

Further detail (Att H, Section 1.3, Page 2) [Att H – Road Reserve Memo_July 2025].

3.1.4 Describe the gradient (or depth range if action is to be taken in a marine area) relevant to the project area.

The gradient of the site is flat with contours ranging between 75 m and 80 m above mean sea level.

3.2 Flora and fauna

3.2.1 Describe the flora and fauna within the affected area and attach any investigations of surveys if applicable.

Flora

The entire survey area is represented by degraded, non-remnant areas of exotic grassland dominated by a weedy ground layer, in particular *Alternanthera sessilis, Chamaecrista rotundifolia, Hyptis suaveolens, Macroptilium atropureum, Senna obtusifolia, Sida* spp. and *Stylosanthes* sp. There were limited grasses in the assessment area, with vegetated ground cover being over 95% at all sites and comprising less than 5% grasses, of which *Urochloa mosambicensis* was dominant.

The assessment was made at the end of the wet season, but previous dry season assessment has shown dense weedy vegetation to persist during the dry season, although vegetated ground cover is reduced at this time, but is still dominated by herbaceous weeds.

Government vegetation mapping of the Survey area was inaccurate with changes to the boundaries of non-remnant and remnant vegetation required in the Survey area, as no remnant vegetation occurs (currently a small area of RE 11.3.30 mapped in north of Survey area).

Fauna

General habitat assessments

Most habitat observed across the Project is considered to be of relatively low quality due to historical vegetation clearing, weed encroachment and grazing activity.

No large hollow bearing trees were located within the road reserve; therefore, the potential for Bare-rumped Sheathtail roosting habitat is removed. Fallen woody debris and ground litter providing habitat for reptiles and small mammals was sparse. No gilgai or soil cracks were present, which provide refuge for a range of small ground-dwelling fauna (e.g. small mammals, reptiles and frogs).

A number of artificial water bodies in the form of farm dams are located within proximity to the Project (for example one farm dam 500 m east of the road reserve from the centre of the Project).

Threatened, migratory or special least concern fauna

One threatened fauna species was recorded over the survey periods from the vicinity of the road reserve - Bare-rumped Sheathtail Bat on anabat devices. The Bare-rumped Sheathtail Bat was recorded in several Anabat locations sampled close to the Project.

Potential habitat for threatened, migratory or special least concern fauna species is summarised in Section 6.5 of the MNES report (Attachment H).

Pest species

No introduced terrestrial vertebrate species were recorded within the Project, although Cane Toad (*Rhinella marina*), Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), Wild Dog (*Canis lupus familiaris*) and Feral Cat (*Felis catus*) are all likely to occur along with a number of introduced bird species. Three of these species (Feral Cat, Rabbit and Wild Dog) are listed as ‘restricted matters’ under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*.

Further detail (Att H, Section 3.1.1, Page 10) [Att H – Road Reserve Memo_July 2025].

3.2.2 Describe the vegetation (including the status of native vegetation and soil) within the project area.

The entire survey area is represented by degraded, non-remnant areas of exotic grassland dominated by a weedy ground layer, in particular *Alternanthera sessilis, Chamaecrista rotundifolia, Hyptis suaveolens, Macroptilium atropureum, Senna obtusifolia, Sida* spp. and *Stylosanthes* sp. There were limited grasses in the assessment area, with vegetated ground cover being over 95% at all sites and comprising less than 5% grasses, of which *Urochloa mosambicensis* was dominant (see Photograph 3.1, Photograph 3.2 and Photograph 3.4 of Attachment H).

The assessment was made at the end of the wet season, but previous dry season assessment has shown dense weedy vegetation to persist during the dry season (see Photograph 3.4 of Attachment H), although vegetated ground cover is reduced at this time, but is still dominated by herbaceous weeds.

Government vegetation mapping of the Survey area was inaccurate with changes to the boundaries of non-remnant and remnant vegetation required in the Survey area, as no remnant vegetation occurs (currently a small area of RE 11.3.30 mapped in north of Survey area) – see Photograph 3.3.

Further detail (Att H, Section 3.1.1, Page 10) [Att H – Road Reserve Memo_July 2025].

3.3 Heritage

3.3.1 Describe any Commonwealth heritage places overseas or other places recognised as having heritage values that apply to the project area.

No World Heritage or National Heritage properties are located within the study area. The closest World Heritage property, the Great Barrier Reef, is located approximately 35 km north of the Project. Additionally, the southern end of the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage area is located approximately 50 km northwest of the Project.

3.3.2 Describe any Indigenous heritage values that apply to the project area.

The registered Aboriginal Party for the Project area are the Bindal People. Council has engaged Bindal People and their nominated Technical Advisor to carry out a systematic and comprehensive cultural heritage survey and assessment of the project impact areas which was completed in stages to the satisfaction of the Bindal People.

A Cultural Heritage Management Agreement (CHMA) has been prepared in consultation with the Bindal People. Engagement with Bindal People is established through ongoing implementation of the agreed and executed CHMA and Reconciliation Action Plan with the Aboriginal Party recognised as a key stakeholder (Appendix I). The Bindal People provided a detailed set of Cultural Heritage Management Recommendations (CHMRs) which have been agreed and accepted by Council for implementation during ground disturbance and Project construction. Council will arrange appropriate signage at agreed locations highlighting the Aboriginal Party's history in the area and will implement the detailed CHMRs as provided by the Bindal People and their Technical Advisor during the ground disturbance associated with the project. Follow-up cultural monitoring by the Aboriginal Party during ground disturbance works for the Project will occur.

Council confirms that the Aboriginal Party considers any Cultural Heritage Management Agreements, Agreed Cultural Heritage Management Recommendations and Cultural Survey Reports for this project to be Confidential documents and based upon this advice, Council has provided the Cultural Heritage Management Agreement (refer to Attachment I) and the Cultural Heritage Survey Reports (refer to Attachment J for Stage 1 and Attachment K for Stage 2) under strict confidentiality to the DCCEEW. It is the express wish of the relevant Aboriginal Party that all information relating to the identification, location and significance of Indigenous cultural heritage sites, finds and other values remain confidential to the Aboriginal Party and Council.

Further detail (Att I) [Att I – CHMA_Nov 2024].

Further detail (Att J) [Att J – CHSIA_Stage1].

Further detail (Att K) [Att K – CHSIA_Stage2].

3.4 Hydrology

3.4.1 Describe the hydrology characteristics that apply to the project area and attach any hydrological investigations or surveys if applicable. *

No watercourses are located within the disturbance footprint.

Watercourses within proximity to the Study area comprise one small ephemeral drainage line being Gilligan Creek (stream order 1) to the south-east and the larger, more permanent stream being Lansdowne Creek (stream order 4) which is to the west of the project. These watercourses reside on a relatively flat alluvial plain which likely undergoes minor seasonal inundation.

The mapped regulated vegetation along and adjacent to these watercourses consists of eucalypt dominated woodlands (REs 11.3.25b, 11.3.30 and 11.3.35).

No mapped wetlands occur in the Project based on a review of Wetland Maps 2.0 (DESI 2020).

Further detail (Att A, Section 5.10, Page 33) [Att A – MNES Report_July 2024].

4. Impacts and mitigation

4.1 Impact details

Potential Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) relevant to your proposed action area.

EPBC Act section	Controlling provision	Impacted	Reviewed
S12	World Heritage	No	Yes
S15B	National Heritage	No	Yes
S16	Ramsar Wetland	No	Yes
S18	Threatened Species and Ecological Communities	Yes	Yes
S20	Migratory Species	No	Yes
S21	Nuclear	No	Yes
S23	Commonwealth Marine Area	No	Yes
S24B	Great Barrier Reef	No	Yes
S24D	Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas	No	Yes
S26	Commonwealth Land	No	Yes
S27B	Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas	No	Yes
S28	Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency	No	Yes

4.1.1 World Heritage

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

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4.1.1.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.1.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

No World Heritage or National Heritage properties are located within the study area. The closest World Heritage property, the Great Barrier Reef, is located approximately 35 km north of the Project. Additionally, the southern end of the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage area is located approximately 50 km northwest of the Project.

Further detail (Att A, Section 5.2, Page 24) [Att A – MNES Report_July 2024].

4.1.2 National Heritage

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

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4.1.2.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.2.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

No World Heritage or National Heritage properties are located within the study area. The closest World Heritage property, the Great Barrier Reef, is located approximately 35 km north of the Project. Additionally, the southern end of the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage area is located approximately 50 km northwest of the Project.

Further detail (Att A, Section 5.2, Page 24) [Att A – MNES Report_July 2024].

4.1.3 Ramsar Wetland

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ramsar wetland
No	No	Bowling Green Bay

4.1.3.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.3.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

The Bowling Green Bay wetland area is approximately 25 km north-east along the Haughton River system. Note this distance is calculated as straight line and are not calculated based on watercourse length.

The Project has very little potential to impact surface water quality values which could in turn impact on these MNES. The Project is a minor local road construction. Due to the distance between the Project and the Bowling Green Bay wetland, direct or indirect impacts are unlikely.

On-site management practices during construction will utilise industry best practice to prevent sedimentation, water runoff and air quality impacts. Construction timing will coincide with favourable weather to further reduce the risk of surface water quality effects outside of the Project footprint. Other typical road construction methods will be employed and are demonstrated throughout Queensland and Australia to achieve acceptable levels of environmental performance. These measures will negate the potential for any adverse impacts on the Bowling Green Bay wetland and associated MNES.

Existing surrounding land uses are subject to intensive agricultural practices such as cattle grazing and further afield, sugar cane growing. The separation distance between the project area combined with the surrounding land uses will further mitigate any potential effect on MNES.

Further detail (Att A, Section 5.10, Page 33) [Att A – MNES Report_July 2024].

4.1.4 Threatened Species and Ecological Communities

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

Threatened species

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	Dasyurus hallucatus	Northern Quoll, Digul [Gogo-Yimidir], Wijingadda [Dambimangari], Wiminji [Martu]
No	No	Dichanthium setosum	bluegrass
No	No	Egernia rugosa	Yakka Skink
No	No	Erythrotriorchis radiatus	Red Goshawk
No	No	Eucalyptus raveretiana	Black Ironbox
No	No	Falco hypoleucos	Grey Falcon
No	No	Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
Yes	Yes	Geophaps scripta scripta	Squatter Pigeon (southern)
No	No	Hipposideros semoni	Semon's Leaf-nosed Bat, Greater Wart-nosed Horseshoe-bat
No	Yes	Hirundapus caudacutus	White-throated Needletail
No	No	Leichhardtia brevifolia	
No	No	Macroderma gigas	Ghost Bat
No	No	Neochmia ruficauda ruficauda	Star Finch (eastern), Star Finch (southern)
No	No	Numenius madagascariensis	Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew
No	No	Omphalea celata	
No	No	Petauroides minor	Greater Glider (northern), Greater Glider (north-eastern Queensland)
No	No	Petauroides volans	Greater Glider (southern and central)
No	No	Petrogale sharmani	Mount Claro Rock Wallaby, Sharman's Rock Wallaby
No	No	Phascolarctos cinereus (combined populations of Qld, NSW and the ACT)	Koala (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory)
No	No	Phlegmariurus tetrastichoides	Square Tassel Fern
No	No	Poephila cincta cincta	Southern Black-throated Finch

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Rhinolophus robertsi	Large-eared Horseshoe Bat, Greater Large-eared Horseshoe Bat
No	No	Rostratula australis	Australian Painted Snipe
Yes	Yes	Saccolaimus saccolaimus nudicluniatus	Bare-rumped Sheath-tailed Bat, Bare-rumped Sheathtail Bat
No	No	Tephrosia leveillei	
No	No	Tyto novaehollandiae kimberli	Masked Owl (northern)
No	No	Varanus mertensi	Mertens' Water Monitor, Mertens's Water Monitor

Ecological communities

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4.1.4.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

Yes

4.1.4.2 Briefly describe why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact on these protected matters. *

The construction and operation of the road has the potential to impact MNES values through the following activities:

- loss of habitat from vegetation clearing
- habitat fragmentation
- fauna injury or mortality during vegetation clearing
- fauna injury or mortality as a result of vehicle strike
- disturbance to wildlife during construction (noise, light and vibration)
- erosion and sedimentation which may impact water quality
- increase in pest animals and weeds from increased vehicle movements and opening up areas of remnant vegetation from clearing for infrastructure.

Direct impacts occur as a direct result of a project’s activities . This may include impacts from vegetation/habitat clearance or direct mortality of fauna from vehicle strike. Further detail on potential direct impacts that may occur to MNES are summarised below.

Vegetation/habitat clearance

The vegetation within the disturbance footprint consists of cleared, primarily exotic grassland. The process of vegetation clearing has potential to result in injury or mortality of native fauna species. Some species which are more sedentary (e.g. reptiles) are more prone to impact than others. Conversely, mobile species such as Squatter Pigeon and migratory birds, with broader habitat preferences, are unlikely to be impacted from vegetation clearing as they are more mobile and can disperse more easily.

The total estimated area of vegetation clearing is 0.02 ha of remnant vegetation and 4.45 ha of non-remnant (previously cleared) vegetation.

Species mortality

Direct fauna mortality may occur as a result of the Project during vegetation clearing (e.g. through removal of mature trees containing hollows), digging up breeding places such as reptiles residing under rocks, or vehicle collision. There are no mature trees proposed to be cleared.

Increased traffic around the road reserve has the potential to kill or injure fauna on impact. Ground-dwelling or slow-moving species may be particularly susceptible to traffic impacts.

Direct mortality of flora may occur through trampling or destruction of individuals from uncontrolled vehicle or personnel movement.

Indirect and facilitated impacts

Indirect impacts can be produced away from the Project or as a result of a complex impact pathway (Franks et al. 2010). Such indirect impacts include fragmentation, bushfire risk, extreme environmental events, erosion and water quality loss, noise and lighting pollution, reduced air quality, weeds, pest fauna and alienation. Facilitated impacts result from further actions (including actions by third parties) which are made possible or facilitated by the action. This is included as an indirect impact.

Further detail on potential indirect and facilitated impacts that may occur to MNES during construction are summarised below.

Fragmentation

Terrestrial habitat connectivity may be reduced as a result of a Project due to clearing which has potential to reduce fauna movement between areas of retained remnant or regrowth vegetation. Such habitat fragmentation is more prominent where clearing widths are larger, such as over 100m, and intersect intact areas of vegetation.

Clearing linear widths through habitats also has the potential to increase edge effects (additional light entering forest, weed encroachment, feral animal abundance may increase and increased risk of bushfire) which has a negative impact on ecological functions for those areas.

Some species are more prone to this fragmentation of habitat. Other species such as Squatter Pigeon are not likely to be impacted by these cleared areas as they are known to disperse quite readily across non-remnant areas and have commonly been found on existing dirt access roads. Species such as Black-throated Finch in the Woodstock region also continue to forage along existing roads and tracks.

Habitat of up to 30 m wide will be cleared for the already gazetted road reserve, the majority of which has been cleared historically. It is not anticipated that significant fragmentation will occur as a result. Large areas of habitat will not be impacted and retained, including the riparian corridor associated with Lansdowne Creek to the west which is a biodiversity corridor. Farm dams on site will also be maintained. This will ensure the EVNT species likely to utilise the disturbance footprint still have large areas that be utilised as corridors, including to habitats outside the disturbance footprint.

Changes in water quality and hydrology

During construction activities, sediment may be mobilised and transported by surface water during rainfall events, ultimately discharging into watercourses and drainage lines and potentially reducing water quality in downstream aquatic habitats. Increased suspended sediments can reduce light penetration into the water column, reducing photosynthesis of aquatic macrophytes, and decreasing dissolved oxygen levels. However, many creek lines in the study area are ephemeral (including Lansdowne Creek), which may reduce the magnitude of these impacts. All Project infrastructure is set back at least 800 m from Lansdowne Creek, therefore retained vegetation in between will act as a further buffer to potential sedimentation impacts.

During construction and operation, the accidental release of pollutants (including spills from construction vehicles and plant, leaks and other uncontrolled releases) into the surrounding environment and waterways has the potential to degrade aquatic habitat quality in the road reserve and impact vegetation communities and terrestrial fauna utilising these areas. This includes direct toxic impacts on fauna from ingestion or inhalation.

Without mitigation, contaminants may enter waterways including oily wastewater (from heavy equipment cleaning), contaminated runoff from chemical or fuel storage areas and general washdown water.

Bushfire risk

Fire is a natural part of the Australian landscape, and most vegetation communities are adapted to periodic fires.

However, changes in the natural fire regime may result in changes in the species composition and/or structure of the vegetation. The increased presence of construction vehicles and personnel in the road reserve may increase fire risk through use of machinery that may generate sparks and idling vehicles being present in areas of ground vegetation.

Noise and lighting

Noise may adversely affect fauna by interfering with communication (e.g. territorial bird song), masking the sound of predators and prey, causing avoidance reactions and displacement from habitat. Construction noise will be generated by the Project through the use of machinery, plant, and vehicles and will vary from short intermittent noise from plant and equipment to more persistent noise from generators. The generation of construction noise may be in areas which have the potential to support threatened fauna species. Many animals react to new noise initially as a potential threat, but quickly ‘learn’ that the noise is not associated with a threat.

Individuals that occur on or near the road reserve may leave the area of impact. Project construction works and therefore potential noise impacts will be temporary.

Artificial lighting from infrastructure and machinery may impact fauna within the road reserve during construction. Artificial lighting can have a range of impacts which vary between species. Artificial light can disrupt patterns of both nocturnal and diurnal species by eliciting responses. Some species may avoid brightly lit areas, potentially due to the perception of increased risk of predation.

Conversely, some species such as nocturnal reptiles, frogs and bats may congregate at artificial light sources to feed on insects attracted to light.

Site lighting will be kept to the minimum needed for safety during construction. Wherever practicable, construction activities will be limited to daylight hours to reduce the need for lighting and resultant light spill into adjacent habitat.

Reduced air quality and dust emissions

Increased dust from vegetation clearing, soil stripping and vehicle movements during construction has the potential to temporarily and locally impact flora and fauna values in the vicinity of the disturbance footprint.

Excess generation of dust and subsequent deposition on leaves can impair plant photosynthesis and productivity (also resulting in reduced habitat quality for fauna), impact on respiratory systems of fauna, alter soil properties impacting on plant species assemblages and reduce water quality in aquatic habitats.

Dust is expected to potentially be an issue during vegetation clearing and construction. Dust levels will be monitored and when needed dust suppression implemented such as wetting down of dirt roads or reducing vehicle speeds.

Weeds and pests

Project activities have the potential to increase the abundance of pest flora in the road reserve and facilitate dispersal of species to previously unimpacted areas. Uncontrolled movement of vehicles, equipment and personnel throughout the road reserve is the key vector of transmission, in particular vehicles and equipment sourced from regions beyond the road reserve which may introduce new species. Many weed species thrive on ground disturbance and will rapidly colonise disturbed areas in advance of native species recolonisation.

Project related activities may also increase pest fauna abundance in the road reserve. This can lead to increased competition with, and predation of native fauna. In addition, habitat degradation may occur through vegetation trampling (e.g. Feral Pig wallowing). Creation of new access points into areas of intact vegetation may create pathways for feral fauna species to disperse. In addition, the creation of artificial water sources may increase the capacity of the area to support feral species such as Cane Toads. Uncontained waste sources may also attract feral fauna such as Wild Dog.

Further detail (Att A, Section 7.4, Page 50) [Att A – MNES Report_July 2024].

4.1.4.4 Do you consider this likely direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact? *

No

4.1.4.6 Describe why you do not consider this to be a Significant Impact. *

No significant impacts are likely to MNES.

TCC is proposing to construct a 1.914 km road as part of the access solution to the LEIP, located 40 km south of Townsville.

Key results of this MNES assessment are summarised as:

- no TECs were recorded
- no flora protected under the EPBC Act were recorded
- Bare-rumped Sheathtail Bat was identified as known to occur due to numerous recordings on Anabat devices in the vicinity of the road reserve
- Potential Squatter Pigeon (foraging) habitat but none identified during surveys in road reserve
- no Black-throated Finch (southern form) were observed during surveys and no habitat was identified throughout the road reserve
- no threatened aquatic species are considered likely to occur within the study area.

A significance of residual impacts assessment was undertaken of the Project's potential impacts on MNES that have been confirmed present or are considered likely to occur within the road reserve. The assessment was made against the EPBC Act Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 (DCCEEW 2013).

No significant impacts are likely to MNES.

Key mitigation measures to be implemented to ensure significant, residual impacts do not occur to MNES are:

- the road is sited within an existing road reserve, and avoids areas of higher ecological value to MNES (e.g. riparian zones nearby in Lansdowne Creek)
- use a high risk Species Management Program (required by DES under the NC Act when impacting on animal breeding places) in place for enabling works in the LEIP, to identify specific measures to be implemented that will mitigate impacts to threatened fauna species and animal breeding places during clearing, as well as operation of the Project
- sequential clearing is to be implemented. This will ensure impacts to fauna during clearing are avoided and minimised. A suitably qualified fauna spotter-catcher will be present during clearing to ensure native fauna are not impacted.

Potential indirect impacts to MNES will be managed through implementation of measures such as weed hygiene protocols, managing weeds in retained bushland areas, reducing noise and lighting.

Further detail (Att A, Section 10, Page 84) [Att A – MNES Report_July 2024].

4.1.4.7 Do you think your proposed action is a controlled action? *

No

4.1.4.9 Please elaborate why you do not think your proposed action is a controlled action. *

The Project is not considered a controlled action for the following reasons:

TCC is proposing to construct a 1.914 km road as part of the access solution to the LEIP, located 40 km south of Townsville.

Key results of this MNES assessment are summarised as:

- no TECs were recorded
- no flora protected under the EPBC Act were recorded
- Bare-rumped Sheathtail Bat was identified as known to occur due to numerous recordings on Anabat devices in the vicinity of the road reserve
- Potential Squatter Pigeon (foraging) habitat but none identified during surveys in road reserve
- no Black-throated Finch (southern form) were observed during surveys and no habitat was identified throughout the road reserve
- no threatened aquatic species are considered likely to occur within the study area.

A significance of residual impacts assessment was undertaken of the Project's potential impacts on MNES that have been confirmed present or are considered likely to occur within the road reserve. The assessment was made against the EPBC Act Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 (DCCEEW 2013).

No significant impacts are likely to MNES.

Key mitigation measures to be implemented to ensure significant, residual impacts do not occur to MNES are:

- the road is sited within an existing road reserve, and avoids areas of higher ecological value to MNES (e.g. riparian zones nearby in Lansdowne Creek)
- use a high risk Species Management Program (required by DES under the NC Act when impacting on animal breeding places) in place for enabling works in the LEIP, to identify specific measures to be implemented that will mitigate impacts to threatened fauna species and animal breeding places during clearing, as well as operation of the Project
- sequential clearing is to be implemented. This will ensure impacts to fauna during clearing are avoided and minimised. A suitably qualified fauna spotter-catcher will be present during clearing to ensure native fauna are not impacted.

Potential indirect impacts to MNES will be managed through implementation of measures such as weed hygiene protocols, managing weeds in retained bushland areas, reducing noise and lighting.

Further detail (Att A, Section 10, Page 84) [Att A – MNES Report_July 2024].

4.1.4.10 Please describe any avoidance or mitigation measures proposed for this action and attach any supporting documentation for these avoidance and mitigation measures. *

The following general measures will be implemented to avoid and minimise environmental impacts to the greatest practical extent:

- Habitat of up to 30 m wide will be cleared for the already gazetted road reserve, the majority of which has been cleared historically.
- Vegetation clearing will be limited to those areas required for earthworks and construction of the Project. Those areas which are not required for the ongoing operation and maintenance of the Project will be rehabilitated as soon as practicable following construction.
- The approved disturbance area will be clearly demarcated prior to clearing to avoid unnecessary clearing of vegetation and to ensure personnel and vehicles stay within the approved footprint. Measures to ensure clearing limits are adhered to will be addressed in site inductions.
- Clearing limits will be clearly demarcated on site, including through use of temporary fencing (e.g. flagging tape to mark out areas or plastic mesh fencing installed with star pickets) to avoid unintentional access to retained sensitive environmental areas.
- Sequential clearing of remnant vegetation will occur to minimise impacts on native fauna, particularly arboreal fauna which may be using tree hollows.

Further detail (Att A, Section 8.1, Page 54) [Att A – MNES Report_July 2024].

4.1.4.11 Please describe any proposed offsets and attach any supporting documentation relevant to these measures. *

While it is recognised that the LEIP Northern Access Road Project will impact land containing habitat value, the net contribution of impacts from the LEIP Northern Access Road Project will not result in a significant residual impact to Squatter Pigeon and/or Bare-Rumped Sheathtail Bat. Given there are no significant residual impacts, offsets are not required.

Further detail (Att A, Section 1.1.4, Page 4) [Att A – MNES Report_July 2024].

4.1.5 Migratory Species

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Actitis hypoleucos	Common Sandpiper
No	Yes	Apus pacificus	Fork-tailed Swift
No	No	Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	Calidris melanotos	Pectoral Sandpiper
No	No	Crocodylus porosus	Salt-water Crocodile, Estuarine Crocodile
No	No	Cuculus optatus	Oriental Cuckoo, Horsfield's Cuckoo
No	No	Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
No	Yes	Hirundapus caudacutus	White-throated Needletail
No	No	Motacilla flava	Yellow Wagtail
No	No	Numenius madagascariensis	Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew

4.1.5.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.5.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

The project area is considered to provide potential habitat for the White-Throated Needletail and Fork-tailed Swift. These species are almost exclusively aerial, and if they are present in the area will forage above the disturbance footprint. Therefore, direct and/or indirect impacts are unlikely to be experienced because no migratory species habitat will be cleared as a result of the Project.

Further detail (Att A, Section 6.5.4 and 6.5.5, Pages 44-45) [Att A – MNES Report_July 2024].

4.1.6 Nuclear

4.1.6.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter? *

No

4.1.6.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

The project does not involve any aspects that could be considered a nuclear action.

4.1.7 Commonwealth Marine Area

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

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4.1.7.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.7.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

The project is not located on the coast and will not impact Commonwealth Marine Areas.

4.1.8 Great Barrier Reef

4.1.8.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter? *

No

4.1.8.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

No World Heritage or National Heritage properties are located within the study area. The closest World Heritage property, the Great Barrier Reef, is located approximately 35 km north of the Project. Additionally, the southern end of the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage area is located approximately 50 km northwest of the Project.

4.1.9 Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas

4.1.9.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter? *

No

4.1.9.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

The project is not associated with large coal mining development or coal seam gas.

4.1.10 Commonwealth Land

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

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4.1.10.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.10.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

No Commonwealth land falls within or adjacent to the project investigation area.

4.1.11 Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

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4.1.11.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.11.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

No Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas fall within or adjacent to the project investigation area.

4.1.12 Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency

4.1.12.1 Is the proposed action to be taken by the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth Agency? *

No

4.2 Impact summary

Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

You have indicated that the proposed action will likely have a significant impact on the following Matters of National Environmental Significance:

None

Conclusion on the likelihood of unlikely significant impacts

You have indicated that the proposed action will unlikely have a significant impact on the following Matters of National Environmental Significance:

- World Heritage (S12)
- National Heritage (S15B)
- Ramsar Wetland (S16)
- Threatened Species and Ecological Communities (S18)
- Migratory Species (S20)
- Nuclear (S21)
- Commonwealth Marine Area (S23)
- Great Barrier Reef (S24B)
- Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas (S24D)
- Commonwealth Land (S26)
- Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas (S27B)
- Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency (S28)

4.3 Alternatives

4.3.1 Do you have any possible alternatives for your proposed action to be considered as part of your referral? *

No

4.3.8 Describe why alternatives for your proposed action were not possible. *

There are no alternative alignments to this local road. The road reserve has been gazetted on cadastral plans for the use of the Townsville City Council.

No alternatives were assessed as part of the project because the construction of a new access is required to support safe access to the LEIP utilising Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) and Queensland Rail (QR) approved and upgraded transport infrastructure routes for heavy vehicles exiting and entering the Flinders Highway and crossing the Mt Isa Line (operational rail corridor). The disturbance footprint will be primarily located within existing road reserve with the exception to areas of the north south connection along No Name Road.

Further detail (Att A, Section 1.1.1, Page 1) [Att A – MNES Report].

Further detail (Att H, Section 1.1, Page 2) [Att H – Road Reserve Memo_July 2025].

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A - MNES Report _July 2024.pdf Matters of National Significance Report	09/07/2024	No	High

1.2.5 Information about the staged development

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A - MNES Report _July 2024.pdf Matters of National Significance Report	08/07/2024	No	High

1.2.6 Commonwealth or state legislation, planning frameworks or policy documents that are relevant to the proposed action

Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1. Document	Att A - MNES Report _July 2024.pdf Matters of National Environmental Significance Report	08/07/2024	No	High
#2. Document	Att B - SMP_Tampering Animal Breeding Places_Sept 2024.pdf Species management program (SMP) for tampering with animal breeding places (High risk of impacts)	05/09/2024	Yes	High
#3. Document	Att C - High Risk SMP Amendment Request_Aug 2024.pdf High Risk Species Management Program	01/08/2024	Yes	High
#4. Document	Att D - SMP Impact Management Plan_Aug 2024.pdf Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct Enabling Works Species Management Program Impact Management Plan	01/08/2024	No	High
#5. Link	A review of koala habitat assessment criteria and methods' by Australian National University (ANU) https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/biodiversi..			High
#6. Link	Biosecurity Act 2014 https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inf..			High
#7. Link	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2004A00485/lates..			High
#8. Link	EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc/publi..			High
#9. Link	Identifying habitat for the endangered Koala https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc/publi..			High
#10. Link	National Recovery Plan for the Koala (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Au https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/biodiversi..			High
#11. Link	Referral guidance for the endangered Koala https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/biodiversi..			High
#12. Link	Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc/publi..			High
#13. Link	The conservation status of Queenslands bioregional ecosystems https://catalogue.nla.gov.au/catalog/2956630			High

1.3.2.17 (Person proposing to take the action) Proposer's history of responsible environmental management

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att F - Corporate Plan_2024.pdf Townsville City Council Corporate Plan	01/01/2024	No	High

1.3.2.18 (Person proposing to take the action) If the person proposing to take the action is a corporation, provide details of the corporation’s environmental policy and planning framework

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att F - Corporate Plan_2024.pdf Townsville City Council Corporate Plan	31/12/2020	No	High
#2.	Document	Att G - TCC Env Policy.pdf Townsville City Council Environmental Policy	23/11/2023	No	High

2.2.5 Tenure of the action area relevant to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A - MNES Report _July 2024.pdf Matters of National Significance Report	08/07/2024	No	High

3.1.1 Current condition of the project area's environment

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A - MNES Report _July 2024.pdf Matters of National Significance Report	08/07/2024	No	High

3.1.2 Existing or proposed uses for the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att H - Road Reserve Memo_July 2022.pdf Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct Northern Access Road Ecological Advice	09/07/2024	No	High

3.1.3 Natural features, important or unique values that applies to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att H - Road Reserve Memo_July 2022.pdf Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct Northern Access Road Ecological Advice	08/07/2024	No	High

3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A - MNES Report _July 2024.pdf Matters of National Significance Report	08/07/2024	No	High

3.2.2 Vegetation within the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att H - Road Reserve Memo_July 2022.pdf Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct Northern Access Road Ecological Advice	08/07/2024	No	High

3.3.2 Indigenous heritage values that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att I - CHMA_Nov 2024.pdf Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct Cultural Heritage Management Agreement	14/11/2024	Yes	High
#2.	Document	Att J- CHSIA_Stage 1_Apr 2021.pdf Aboriginal cultural heritage survey and impact assessment study for Stage 1 of the Townsville City Council Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct (LEIP)	01/12/2021	Yes	High
#3.	Document	Att K - CHSIA_Stage 2_Aug 2023.pdf Aboriginal cultural heritage survey and impact assessment study for Stage 2 of the Townsville City Council Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct (LEIP)	01/03/2023	Yes	High

3.4.1 Hydrology characteristics that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A - MNES Report _July 2024.pdf Matters of National Significance Report	08/07/2024	No	High

4.1.1.3 (World Heritage) Why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A - MNES Report _July 2024.pdf Matters of National Significance Report	08/07/2024	No	High

4.1.2.3 (National Heritage) Why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A - MNES Report _July 2024.pdf Matters of National Significance Report	08/07/2024	No	High

4.1.3.2 (Ramsar Wetland) Why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact on the identified protected matters

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att B - MNES Report _July 2024.pdf Matters of National Significance Report	08/07/2024	No	High

4.1.3.3 (Ramsar Wetland) Why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A - MNES Report _July 2024.pdf Matters of National Significance Report	08/07/2024	No	High

4.1.3.6 (Ramsar Wetland) Why you do not consider the direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att B - MNES Report _July 2024.pdf Matters of National Significance Report	08/07/2024	No	High

4.1.3.9 (Ramsar Wetland) Why you do not think your proposed action is a controlled action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att B - MNES Report _July 2024.pdf Matters of National Significance Report	08/07/2024	No	High

4.1.3.10 (Ramsar Wetland) Avoidance or mitigation measures proposed for this action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att B - MNES Report _July 2024.pdf Matters of National Significance Report	08/07/2024	No	High

4.1.3.11 (Ramsar Wetland) Proposed offsets relevant to avoidance or mitigation measures

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att B - MNES Report _July 2024.pdf Matters of National Significance Report	08/07/2024	No	High

4.1.4.2 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact on the identified protected matters

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A - MNES Report _July 2024.pdf Matters of National Significance Report	08/07/2024	No	High

4.1.4.6 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Why you do not consider the direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A - MNES Report _July 2024.pdf Matters of National Significance Report	08/07/2024	No	High
#2.	Link	The Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1: Matters of National Environmental Significance https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc/publi..			High

4.1.4.9 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Why you do not think your proposed action is a controlled action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A - MNES Report _July 2024.pdf Matters of National Significance Report	08/07/2024	No	High
#2.	Link	Nature Conservation Act 1992 https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inf..			High
#3.	Link	The Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1: Matters of National Environmental Significance https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc/publi..			High

4.1.4.10 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Avoidance or mitigation measures proposed for this action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A - MNES Report _July 2024.pdf Matters of National Significance Report	08/07/2024	No	High

4.1.4.11 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Proposed offsets relevant to avoidance or mitigation measures

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A - MNES Report _July 2024.pdf Matters of National Significance Report	08/07/2024	No	High

4.1.5.3 (Migratory Species) Why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A - MNES Report _July 2024.pdf Matters of National Significance Report	08/07/2024	No	High

4.3.8 Why alternatives for your proposed action were not possible

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A - MNES Report _July 2024.pdf Matters of National Significance Report	08/07/2024	No	High
#2.	Document	Att H - Road Reserve Memo_July 2022.pdf Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct Northern Access Road Ecological Advice	08/07/2024	No	High

5.2 Declarations

Completed Referring party's declaration

The Referring party is the person preparing the information in this referral.

ABN/ACN	28141736558
Organisation name	EMM CONSULTING PTY LIMITED
Organisation address	2065 NSW
Representative's name	Mark Ryan
Representative's job title	Senior Environmental Consultant
Phone	07 3648 1200
Email	maryan@emmconsulting.com.au
Address	Level 1 87 Wickham Terrace Spring Hill QLD 4000

☑ Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *

☑ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

☑ By checking this box, I, **Mark Ryan of EMM CONSULTING PTY LIMITED**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. *

☑ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

Completed Person proposing to take the action's declaration

The Person proposing to take the action is the individual, business, government agency or trustee that will be responsible for the proposed action.

ABN/ACN	44741992072
Organisation name	TOWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL
Organisation address	4810 QLD
Representative's name	Scott Muller
Representative's job title	Program Manager - Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct
Phone	0456872581

Email	scott.muller@townsville.qld.gov.au
Address	103 Walker Street, Townsville City QLD 4810

☑ Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *

☑ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

☑ I, **Scott Muller of TOWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to the EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. I declare that I am not taking the action on behalf or for the benefit of any other person or entity. *

☑ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

✔ Completed Proposed designated proponent's declaration

The Proposed designated proponent is the individual or organisation proposed to be responsible for meeting the requirements of the EPBC Act during the assessment process, if the Minister decides that this project is a controlled action.

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

☑ Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *

☑ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

☑ I, **Scott Muller of TOWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL**, the Proposed designated proponent, consent to the designation of myself as the Proposed designated proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral. *

☐ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *